

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-4 and 7-18 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 14, 17 and 18 being independent. Claims 5, 6 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 5, 6, 7/5-6, 8/5-6, 9/7/5-6, 18 and 19 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. Claims 1-4, 7/1-4, 8/1-4, 9/7/1-4 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to expedite allowance, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable features of dependent Claim 5, amended independent Claim 14 to include the allowable features of dependent Claim 19 and rewritten allowable dependent Claim 18 in independent form. In addition, independent Claim 17 has been amended to include features similar to those in allowable Claim 5. Thus, independent Claims 1, 14, 17 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 7-13, 15 and 16 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues because it merely incorporates allowable features into independent claims. In addition, this Amendment is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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